

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
JASPER DIVISION**

George I. Moyer, Jr.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No.
)	
CBC Associates, LLC, a Tennessee)	
company,)	
)	
)	
Defendant.)	<u>Jury Demanded</u>

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, George I. Moyer, Jr., brings this action under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), for a finding that Defendant's debt collection actions violated the FDCPA, and to recover damages, and alleges:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to § 1692k(d) of the FDCPA, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

2. Venue is proper in this District because: a) the acts and transactions occurred here; b) Plaintiff resides here; and, c) Defendant transacts business here.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, George I. Moyer, Jr. ("Moyer"), is a citizen of the State of Alabama, residing in the Northern District of Alabama, from whom Defendant attempted to collect defaulted consumer debts, which he allegedly owed for medical services to Lakeland Community Hospital, Inc.

4. Defendant, CBC Associates, LLC ("CBC"), is a Tennessee company, that

acts as a debt collector, as defined by § 1692a of the FDCPA, because it regularly uses the mails and/or the telephone to collect, or attempt to collect, defaulted consumer debts. Defendant CBC operates a defaulted debt collection business and attempts to collect debts from consumers in many states, including consumers in the State of Alabama. In fact, Defendant CBC was acting as a debt collector as to the defaulted consumer debt it attempted to collect from Plaintiff.

5. Defendant CBC is authorized to conduct business in the State of Alabama and maintains a registered agent here, see, record from the Alabama Secretary of State, attached as Exhibit A. In fact, Defendant CBC conducts business in Alabama.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. On April 9, 2020, Mr. Moyer and his wife filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition in a matter styled In re: Moyer, N.D.Ala.Bankr. No. 20-70539-JHH7. Among the debts listed on Mr. Moyer's Schedule E/F was a medical debt that he allegedly owed to Lakeland Community Hospital, Inc., see, excerpt of the Schedule E/F, attached as Exhibit B.

7. Accordingly, on April 11, 2020, Lakeland Community Hospital, Inc., was sent, via U.S. Mail, notice of the bankruptcy by the court, see, the Certificate of Service to the Notice of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Case – No Proof of Claim Deadline, which is attached as Exhibit C.

8. Plaintiff's bankruptcy is a matter of public record, is on his credit reports, is in the files of the creditor, and is readily discoverable by any competent debt collector via one of the bankruptcy "scrub" services.

9. Nonetheless, Defendant sent Mr. Moyer a collection letter, dated May 27,

2020, demanding payment of the Lakeland Community Hospital debt he allegedly owed prior to the bankruptcy. A copy of this collection letter is attached as Exhibit D.

10. Defendant's violation of the FDCPA was material because Defendant's continued collection communications, after Plaintiff had filed for bankruptcy made him believe that his exercise of his rights through filing bankruptcy may have been futile and that he did not have the right to a fresh start that Congress had granted him under the Bankruptcy Code, as well as his rights under the FDCPA. Defendant's collection actions alarmed, confused and distressed Mr. Moyer.

11. All of Defendant's collection actions at issue in this matter occurred within one year of the date of this Complaint.

12. Defendant's collection communications are to be interpreted under the "least sophisticated consumer" standard, see, Jeter v. Credit Bureau, 760 F.2d 1168, 1176 (11th Cir. 1985); LeBlanc v. Unifund CCR Partners, 601 F.3d 1185, 1193-1194 (11th Cir. 2010).

COUNT I
Violation Of § 1692e Of The FDCPA --
Demanding Payment Of A Debt That Is Not Owed

13. Plaintiff adopts and realleges ¶¶ 1-12.

14. Section 1692e of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from using any false and/or any deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt, including, but not limited to, the false representation of the character, amount or legal status of any debt, see 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2)(A).

15. Demanding payment of a debt that is no longer owed due to a bankruptcy, is false and/or deceptive or misleading, in violation of § 1692e of the FDCPA, see,

Randolph v. IMBS, Inc., 368 F3d 726, 728-730 (7th Cir. 2004).

16. Defendant's violation of § 1692e of the FDCPA renders it liable for actual and statutory damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

COUNT II
Violation Of § 1692c(c) Of The FDCPA --
Failure To Cease Communications And Cease Collections

17. Plaintiff adopts and realleges ¶¶ 1-12.

18. Section 1692c(c) of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from communicating with a consumer after a direction to cease communications, and from continuing to demand payment of a debt that the consumer has indicated that they refuse to pay, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(c).

19. Here, the bankruptcy and the notice issued by that court (Exhibits B & C), provided notice to cease communications and cease collections. By communicating directly with Mr. Moyer regarding this debt and demanding payment (Exhibit D), despite his bankruptcy, Defendant violated § 1692c(c) of the FDCPA.

20. Defendant's violation of § 1692c(c) of the FDCPA renders it liable for actual and statutory damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees, see, 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff, George I. Moyer, Jr., prays that this Court:

1. Find that Defendant's form collection letter violates the FDCPA;
2. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff Moyer, and against Defendant, for actual and statutory damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees as provided by § 1692k(a) of the FDCPA; and,

3. Grant such further relief as deemed just.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff, George I. Moyer, Jr., demands trial by jury.

By: /s/ David J. Philipps
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

By: /s/ Ronald C. Sykstus
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

Dated: June 18, 2020

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